

## **ALICE MERRILL HORNE**

**i 1868 - 1948**

**i Saved the Eagle Gate landmark on Salt Lake City's State Street**

**i 2<sup>nd</sup> woman to serve in Utah House of Representatives**

Alice Merrill Horne was born in a log cabin in Fillmore, Utah on January 2, 1868. When she was only seven she was sent to live with her widowed grandmother in Salt Lake City. Her grandmother was interested in painting and encouraged Alice to study art. Her teacher persuaded her to make the promotion and production of art one of her principal lifetime commitments.

Alice attended the University of Deseret. She completed a teaching certificate and a degree in pedagogy in 1887. In 1890, she married George Henry Horne, a local banker who had been a member of Alice's Shakespearean Society—a group she created at the University. A few years later they went to the Columbian Exposition in Chicago where Alice represented Utah on the Liberal Arts Committee of the World's Fair. She published a book of Utah art and poetry to illustrate Utah's developing culture.

In 1894, Alice challenged the art program being used in the Salt Lake City schools. She tried to persuade the superintendent to replace the system and was laughed at. So, she persuaded a former classmate, Oscar W. Moyle, to run for the Board of Education. She took it upon herself to get him elected and he received a large majority of votes. He kept his promise to Alice to discard the Augsburg system of art and convinced the Board to adopt a course in drawing with J. Leo Fairbanks, a Utah impressionist trained in Paris.

When State Street was to be widened, Alice was opposed because she did not want to see the Eagle Gate torn down. She fought with vigor to save the landmark. Because of her efforts, the Highway Commission found a way to incorporate the Eagle Gate Monument into the plans. One of Alice's issues as a legislator was the establishment of a state agency that was to hold an annual art exhibition and make annual purchases of paintings to begin a permanent collection for the state.

Alice encouraged greater production of good art in the schools and community throughout her life. In 1934, she was inducted in the Hall of Fame of the Salt Lake Council of Women. One of the residence halls at Brigham Young University is named for her. During her lifetime, Alice sponsored more than 35 permanent exhibits in Utah.